

## The 5th Ward Lowdown



Dear Neighbors and Friends,

As you drive down Fremont and Emerson Aves; take a second to notice the new LED streetlights being installed by Mpls Public Works. The new lights will keep the area brighter and safer. I worked on getting the boulevard trees trimmed to provide better directional lighting in the area with the help of MPRB Forestry Department. Similarly, I wanted to mention again that this year we will be seeing a lot of construction on 26th Ave N. Repaving 26th was originally supposed to be a two year project. Much to my dismay city staff have been talking recently about the need to extend this to a third year. I have shared my extreme displeasure about the idea of going to next year with city staff.

### Listening Sessions on Sick-Time and Paid-Time Off



The Mpls City Council established the [Workplace Partnership Group](#) last fall as a working group, specifically tasked with developing policy recommendations related to earned sick-time and paid-time off.

The Workplace Partnership Group is hosting a series of listening sessions to receive public comment on the topic. These community-based sessions will help the group gain insights, concerns, perspectives, experiences, and suggestions from employers, employees and the community.

The group will report its recommendations to the Committee of the Whole no later than Feb. 24, 2016.

### Heritage Preservation for White Castle Denied



The City approved the historic landmark designation for 404 West Broadway and denied the historic landmark designation for 410 West Broadway. 404 is the old IOOF building next to Friedman's and 410 is the low slung one-story white brick building next to it (it had been a White Castle and a diner).

The building at 410 has fallen into serious disrepair and I think that is primarily why the Heritage Preservation Commission denied designating it a historic landmark.

I am very concerned about the future and the quality of West Broadway and these two buildings could be important parts of a more vibrant and active West Broadway. The best news about this is that Kamps said after the vote that they had no intention of tearing down the buildings in the near future. I hope we can work out a solution that works for Kamps and West Broadway.

### Repeal Ordinance: Congregating on Sidewalks



Council Member Elizabeth Glidden (Ward 8) and I have [proposed to repeal](#) the city ordinance against 3 or more people congregating on sidewalks. I am concerned this ordinance may be unconstitutional, and the potential exists for it to be used unfairly against citizens in Mpls. The process to repeal this ordinance will take a couple of months. I will let you know more about it as this process moves forward.

#### [427.220.—Congregating on streets or sidewalks.](#)

*Three (3) or more persons shall not stand together or near each other in any street or on any footwalk or sidewalks as to obstruct the free passage for pedestrians, and any persons so standing shall move on immediately after a request to do so made by the mayor, chief of police or any police officer.*

## Participate and Sign-up for a Community Garden



The City is inviting requests to lease vacant city lots for community gardens and market gardens during 2016. The [program](#) has expanded and changed this year. There are approximately 55 lots currently available for lease.

I want to encourage new gardeners and organizations to participate. Interested garden groups should complete and submit a [Garden Request Form](#) for each parcel they intend to request by February 19. If you would like more info., my office will co-host the following events:

**Community Garden Forum**  
**Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**6pm-8pm**

**Davis Center, Assembly Room**  
**1250 W. Broadway Ave N**  
**[Minneapolis, MN 55411](#)**

**Community Garden Forum**  
**(Hmong)**

**Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**6pm-8pm**

**North Regional Library**  
**1315 Lowry Ave N**  
**[Minneapolis, MN 55411](#)**

## March 9th: Pre-order a Tree



Mark your calendars because starting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, property owners in Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 can pre-order trees for only \$25 each. These wards are typically under-represented as users of the annual City Trees program. If you live in Ward 5 and are interested, feel free to reach out to my office. The program will open up to the entire city on March 27<sup>th</sup> including residents, businesses, and nonprofits.

The City is offering more than 1,200 three- to eight-foot trees. Choose from a variety of fruit and evergreen trees. The program is funded by the City and is a low-cost way for folks to help build the city's tree canopy.

Limit one tree per property, maximum three properties. You can order a tree(s) at [www.treetrust.org](http://www.treetrust.org) or you can request a paper form by calling (952) 767-3886.

Trees must be picked up on May 16, 17, 18, or 19 at the City of Mpls Impound Lot.

## Step-Up Applications due February 5<sup>th</sup>



Hear ye, hear ye.

The City's youth employment program STEP-UP is now accepting applications for 2016 summer interns. Eligible Mpls youths ages 14-21 who are interested in participating in the 2016 STEP-UP class have until Feb. 5 to complete an application [online](#).

STEP-UP is a City program in partnership with AchieveMpls, the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), the Mpls Park and Recreation Board, and Project for Pride in Living (PPL).

Since the program was launched in 2004, it has provided more than 21,000 internship opportunities. In 2015, STEP-UP placed more than 1,600 Mpls youths in jobs with more than 200 businesses, public agencies and nonprofits.

Businesses, public agencies and nonprofits interested in employing interns in 2016 can find information on the [website](#).

Thank you for your continued support. If there's anything my office can do to better serve you, please let us know by calling (612) 673-2205.

Sincerely,